

On *Zygaena (Mesembrynus*)graslini* Lederer near Tel Aviv in Israel (Lepidoptera, Zygaenidae)

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In the year 1932 Hugo Reiss (1932) wrote on *Zygaena graslini* Lederer and its range in Syria, Mesopotamia and Asia Minor, and figured the nominate race from Beirut, Lebanon. The ssp. *pfeifferi* Reiss from Bscharre, Lebanon, 1600-1850m, 15-30.vi.1931, leg. E. Pfeiffer & H. Kulzer, Munich, the ssp. *kulzeri* Reiss from Zebdani, Anti Lebanon, 1100m, 29.iv.-17.v.1931, leg. H. Kulzer, Munich, and the ssp. *rebeli* Reiss from the Yükses Dagh, Amanus Mts., beginning to the middle of April, 1932, leg. native collectors, were also described and figured. Paratypes of all the above mentioned races are in coll. Reiss and have been compared with the new subspecies described below. As the name *rebeli* Reiss is preoccupied, it was replaced by *rebeliana* Reiss & Tremewan (1964). *Z. graslini* was placed in the subgenus *Zygaena* Fabricius by Reiss (1933) and Reiss & Tremewan (1967).

We acquired from Mr Heinz Czipka, Fürth, Odenwald, 3♂♂, 2♀♀ of a *graslini* race, labelled Israel, Nir Elijahu Kibbutz, 100m, 25.iii.-9.iv.1969, leg. Czipka. The locality lies near Tel Aviv. From the same locality and with the same data Mr Czipka sent us a further 26♂♂, 3♀♀, so that we have a total of 29♂♂, 5♀♀ before us. The low elevation of the biotope is rather significant when compared with the early flight period.

The wingspan is as follows: ♂♂, 23-30 mm, ♀♀, 26-28.5 mm. In the males the antennae are more heavily clubbed than in the females. The body is blue-black, lightly haired. The legs are likewise blue-black, the femur lightly haired, the tibia in part dirty yellow. The middle spurs on the hind tibia are absent. In fresh specimens the red coloration of the forewing spots is somewhat more fiery and warmer than in the described races. An essential characteristic is the distinct enlargement of the forewing spots, especially the middle spots 3 and 4, which in 21♂♂, 5♀♀. are

EXPLANATION OF PLATE

Fig. 1. *Zygaena graslini czipkai* ssp. nov., Holotype ♂, wingspan 27 mm.

Fig. 2. *Z. graslini czipkai* ssp. nov., Allotype ♀, wingspan 28.5 mm.

Fig. 3. *Z. graslini czipkai* ssp. nov., Paratype ♂, wingspan 28 mm.

Fig. 4. *Z. occitanica albarracinensis* Reiss & Reiss, Holotype ♂, wingspan 25 mm.

Fig. 5. *Z. occitanica albarracinensis* Reiss & Reiss, Allotype ♀, wingspan 31 mm.

Fig. 6. *Z. occitanica albarracinensis* Reiss & Reiss, Paratype ♂, wingspan 25 mm.

Fig. 7. *Z. trifolii mideltica* Reiss & Reiss, Holotype ♂, wingspan 29 mm.

Fig. 8. *Z. trifolii mideltica* Reiss & Reiss, Allotype ♀, wingspan 30 mm.

Fig. 9. *Z. trifolii mideltica* Reiss & Reiss, Paratype ♂, wingspan 28.5 mm.

Fig. 10. *Z. trifolii mideltica* Reiss & Reiss, Paratype ♀, wingspan 32 mm.

N.B.—Dr Günther Reiss and his wife found a few specimens of *Z. occitanica albarracinensis* Reiss & Reiss in the type locality in 1970.

**Zygaena problematica* Naumann (1966), described from Namrun, Cilician Taurus, Turkey, was placed next to *Z. graslini* Lederer. Alberti (1958) placed *graslini* in the subgenus *Mesembrynus* Hübner. More recently, Naumann (1970) has reared the larva on *Eryngium planum* and also placed the species in this subgenus.

broadly confluent and cover a much larger area of the forewing. There are no specimens in which spots 3 and 4 are separated by the blue-black ground colour. Also the confluent spots 1 and 2 tend to be confluent with spots 3 and 4; in 8♂♂, 3♀♀ spot 1 is extended along the costa as far as spot 3, with which it is joined, while spot 2 in 7♂♂, 1♀ is broadened towards the inner margin, forming spot 2a. Spot 5 is generally larger and nearer to the confluent spots 3 and 4. Spot 6 is present in all specimens, extends towards the termen, and is confluent with spot 5. The ab. *confluens* Oberthür, with spots 1, 2, 3 and 4 broadly confluent, is represented by 2♂♂, 1♀. This form was first described by Oberthür, not Dziurzynski, from Akbès, Syria, the type-specimen being figured by Tremewan (1961). On the somewhat matter underside of the forewings, the spots generally form a strong red suffusion. The red of the hindwings is somewhat less fiery than that in the forewing spots. In 5♂♂, 1♀, the hindwings have a narrow but distinct blue-black border, especially at the apex; in the remaining specimens the hindwing border is absent. The fringes are blue-black.

This race is named after Mr H. Czipka: **czipkai** ssp. nov. The holotype ♂ and allotype ♀ with the above quoted data in coll. Reiss; paratypes with the same data in coll. Czipka and coll. Reiss.

The ♂, labelled Haifa, coll. Pietsch, in coll. Reiss, that was recorded in 1932 (Reiss, 1932) has similar enlarged forewing spots and appears to be referable to *czipkai* ssp. nov.

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